

NEW LONDON VILLAGE COUNCIL
Regular Meeting – Wednesday, September 15, 2021 @ 7 p.m.

Mayor Toby Thomas called the meeting to order. He then gave the invocation followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll call was then taken with the following members present: Gullett, Steve Ball, Cooke, Willis, Jennifer Ball and Myers.

Also present: Ellen Simmons, Steve Bond, Joe Hicks, Shawn Pickworth, Buddy Workman, Marvin McCallister, Joe Thomas and Lynne Phillips.

Toby Thomas asked for approval of the agenda. Steve Ball made a motion to approve the agenda. Gullett seconded the motion. Roll call – All ayes; No one opposed.

The minutes from the August 23, 2021 regular meeting were then presented for approval. Myers made a motion to approve the minutes. Willis seconded the motion. Roll call – All ayes; No one opposed.

Toby Thomas asked if there were any public questions or statements.

There were none.

Toby Thomas called for a report from the Administrator.

Shawn Pickworth reported the following:

Water

- Park Avenue Water Main Replacement Project – Right now we aren't planning to go to bid for this project until later this year, early next.
- Lead Service Line Replacement Project – crews have been out investigating/identifying services and working with engineers to be included in the project. Finishing up the funding paperwork.
- Backflow/Cross Contamination Inspections – crews have been out in the Twp. conducting the annual inspections per OEPA rules and guidelines.
- Dam Repair on the North and West sides of the reservoir has been completed. Contractor did a nice job.
- Pump Station wet wells have been pumped out and crews are in the process of cleaning. Project will be completed next week.

Wastewater

- Wastewater Treatment Plant Project – a progress meeting was held on September 8, 2021 with engineering, contractor and USDA-RD representatives. Project continues to be on schedule. There are a few items we have requested to be moved ahead in the schedule due to getting into high flow months next spring.

Storm Sewers

- Nothing major.

Sanitation

- No major issues.

Street

- Potholes – Please feel free to contact our office if you see one that is not getting addressed. 419-929-4091.
- West Washburn Project – Engineering continues with this project. The way it is looking most of this project will not be done until spring of 2022. A lot of things come into play when planning and bidding a project. Also, I was contacted by Columbia Gas, and they are planning on doing a small project on West Washburn during the 4th quarter of this year in which we would want completed before we begin the road project.

Other

- I will be on vacation starting September 22, 2021 – October 4, 2021.

Stuart Cooke asked what the estimate was for the reservoir project.

Shawn Pickworth replied it was \$30,000.

Toby Thomas stated he didn't have a report to share but he wanted to thank Stuart Cooke for taking over the last couple council meetings while he was away. He also informed everyone that his wife was doing well and he appreciated all the prayers.

Toby Thomas then asked for a report from police.

Police Chief Joe Hicks presented the following report:

During the Firelands Festival from 6PM Friday until 11PM Monday the police department handled 68 calls. This included 4 arrests, two for domestic violence and two for disorderly conduct/intox. Overall, the festival went smooth and was considered a success.

Ofc. Coty Bravo resigned his position effective 09/07/2021. I would like to promote Ofc. Brett Harrenton to full-time status to fill his vacancy.

I have chosen Aric Ubienski to fill the position of S.R.O. as previously discussed. We had an opportunity to meet with superintendent, Brad Romano, and tour the school. This meeting went well and both sides are looking forward to starting this partnership as soon as possible.

Ofc. Zach Ingraham has successfully completed his 6-month probationary period, which ended on August 22nd. I am requesting he be removed from probationary status and given his one dollar raise.

Chief Hicks will be in Columbus from September 20-24th for chief's training.

Myers made a motion to approve the promotion of Zach Ingraham from probation to full-time officer as of August 22, 2021. Cooke seconded the motion. Roll call – All ayes; No one opposed.

Steve Ball made a motion to promote Brett Harrenton from part-time officer to full-time status as of September 19, 2021. Jennifer Ball seconded the motion. Roll call – All ayes; No one opposed.

Toby Thomas asked for a report from fire. John Chapin was absent but had sent the following report to council:

The New London Fire Department was part of a countywide FEMA grant last year in which we received 25 portable radios and 6 mobile radios. We have received these items but have not put all the portable radios in service. We are all working on moving to different frequencies and all the radios will need reprogrammed in the near future. The new countywide system will allow for better communication with all agencies that operate in the county. The final total cost of our portion of the grant is \$93,175.71. We owe 10% of the cost once the project is complete, \$9,317.57.

This year we received another FEMA grant totaling \$180,500.00. This is for replacing our current SCBAs (Self Contained Breathing Apparatus). We have 12 in service now along with 12 spare bottles. The grant will give us 25 SCBAs and 25 spare bottles. The increase is due to the program requirements of 1 SCBA for each seated position in all of the trucks. We were awarded a FEMA grant 17 years ago that gave us the 12 SCBAs that we are replacing now. \$3,500.00 of the total is for a grant writer that was used to prepare this grant. We will receive \$3,325.00 of this back through the grant. Our portion of this grant will be 5% of the total cost, \$8,595.24.

We continue to apply for grants as they become available. We will work with the same grant writer for our next FEMA grant. A majority of the grant writer fee is only paid if the grant is awarded.

Toby Thomas asked for a report from the ambulance. Jennifer Ball stated she had nothing but she would have a full report at the next council meeting.

Toby Thomas asked for a report from zoning.

Buddy Workman stated he wanted village residents to be informed that once they make a complaint concerning a certain property, there is a process that is required to be followed. If nothing happens right away, please be patient. The process sometimes takes a while to complete. Buddy Workman wanted residents to realize he is working on issues but it does take time.

Toby Thomas then asked for a report from Recreation.

Joe Thomas shared the following report:

- Reservoir camping rates. Are we raising rates or are we leaving them where they are at? Right now, it is \$1900 for water and electric and \$2000 for a full hook-up. At the end of the season we are going to finish the sewer project which will gain us 21 more full hook-ups which will generate \$2100. We have done a great job this year watching our budget and I think we are way ahead of where we thought we would be. I don't see any need to raise rates at this time.
- Labor Day weekend was a big success. We set a record for the amount of weekend passes we sold and for the gates on Sunday. Saturdays gates were about normal but Mondays gates were down a bit.
- We had very few problems throughout the weekend.
- I would like to thank all the volunteers that made this weekend happen - all the park board members and council members that came out and helped and all the gate workers. I would like to give a special thank you to Chris Rowland and my sister Jill Mitchell. Chris runs the truck and tractor pulls and does an awesome job. My sister ran the fry stand for us this year. I would also like to thank SteveBall, Shawn Pickworth and Adam Gullett. They were in the depot all weekend. My last thank you is to my family. My wife and kids don't get to see much of me that weekend so Sarah is a single parent for a few days.

- Just because Labor Day is over doesn't mean the parks stop. Our next concert is September 25. The first band starts at 3pm with Kidd Renegade, at 5:30 is Flashback, and then at 8pm is Bad JuJu.
- Then our gun raffle is November 20th starting at noon. Tickets are \$10 or 6 for \$50 we will be raffling off 25 guns plus many side prizes. Tickets are at the marathon gas station, the hardware store and any park board member.
- Golf Scramble on October 2nd.
- I'm asking council when the land sells by the weight room if the parks could receive that money for whatever it sells for. The parks have been mowing that land for at least the last 10 years which has saved the village a lot of money. I feel the parks have saved the village anywhere from \$4000-\$5000 a year which is \$40,000-\$50,000 over the last 10 years. If the village would allow this I would put this money towards paving more roads at the reservoir and fixing some electrical problems.

Stuart Cooke asked Joe Thomas if he had checked the rates at any other campgrounds in the area.

Joe Thomas stated that no he had not.

Stuart Cooke had checked some prices and New London was the lowest around and he thinks that with inflation, they will need to maintain and keep up with a small increase each year to prevent a large increase at some point.

Members of council discussed the pros and cons of a rate increase. They discussed the cost of the new sewers that were installed compared to the increased revenue received.

Steve Ball stated he agreed with Joe because the New London Reservoir does not have the amenities that the other campgrounds in the area have.

Janice Myers was concerned about the increase in electric prices.

Adam Gullett stated he did not think the campground rates should be increased either.

Despite the conflicted opinions about the rates, all members of council agreed that Joe Thomas had been doing a great job. Steve Ball added that people have no idea what Joe does during Labor Day weekend and how hard he works.

Jennifer Ball made a motion to keep the New London Reservoir Campground seasonal rates the same as the current rates for the 2022 camping season. Steve Ball seconded the motion. Roll call: Jennifer Ball, Yes; Cooke, No; Myers, No; Willis, Yes; Steve Ball, Yes; Gullett, Yes.

Toby Thomas then presented Ordinance 2021-36 An Ordinance Authorizing the Mayor, Fiscal Officer-Treasurer, and Administrator to Enter into a Contract with the Huron County Development Council for the Sale of Approximately 3.83 Acres of Land (the "Old School Property") and Declaring an Emergency. Emergency Reading.

Stuart Cooke stated he had a couple things before they voted on this ordinance. He wondered when they sold the land, if they could include certain stipulations and time frames in the contract to prevent the buyer from purchasing the land and then not doing anything with it.

Shawn Pickworth stated that they would absolutely do that but the current ordinance was only approving an agreement between the Village of New London and the Huron County Development Council to use them as an agent. When they got to the point where they were actually entering an agreement with a buyer, they would include those stipulations and timelines.

Steve Ball made a motion to allow Ordinance 2021-36 to be passed on an emergency measure. Jennifer Ball seconded the motion. Roll call: Jennifer Ball, Yes; Cooke, Yes; Myers, Yes; Willis, Yes; Steve Ball, Yes; Gullett, Yes. Jennifer Ball made a motion to approve the emergency reading. Steve Ball seconded the motion. Roll call – All ayes; No one opposed.

Toby Thomas then called for Old Business.

There was none.

Toby Thomas then called for New Business.

There was none.

Toby Thomas then presented the monthly bills for approval under Schedule A. Jennifer made a motion to approve the bills as presented. Myers seconded the motion. Roll call - All ayes; No one opposed.

Toby Thomas then presented the monthly bills for approval under Schedule B. Jennifer Ball made a motion to approve Schedule B. Willis seconded the motion. Roll call: Jennifer Ball, Yes; Steve Ball, Yes; Willis, Yes; Gullett, Yes; Myers, Disqualify; Cooke, Abstain.

Toby Thomas then presented the bills under Schedule C, Then and Now. Steve Ball made a motion to approve Schedule C. Cooke seconded the motion. Roll call – All ayes; No one opposed.

Gullett made a motion to adjourn. Myers seconded the motion. Roll call – All ayes; No one opposed.



Nancy Howell
Fiscal Officer



Toby Thomas
Mayor